

**2024 AGM Report 6th JUNE 1900 hours**

**SHREWSBURY SQUASH & RACKETBALL CLUB**

***PRESENT***

*Annette Dickinson-Flint; Mal Brown; Graham Jackson; Howard Jones; Max Lloyd; Laura Mather; Pete Morgans; Cyril Nolan; Gary Nolan; Lorna Rogers; Don Wallington. [11]*

*[13 in 2023] [13 in 2022] [12 in 2021] [12 in 2020] [17 in 2019] [18 in 2018] [16 in 2017] [13 in 2016] [12 in 2015].*

***APOLOGIES***

*Mal Brown; Ian Dinwiddy; Kacper Pagorek; Lee Picken; Guy Scott; Alex Whitehouse*

*The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed his disappointment with the attendance.*

*There were no matters arising from the previous AGM minutes.*

***CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY’S REPORT***

*It’s a very difficult task to find the correct words to sum up a year of contrasts as simply and fairly as possible without missing someone or something so, to summarize:-*

*The Club has had a challenging year - you could say almost a year in “transition”. For me, one of the highlights was the running of the inaugural Chris Flint Bronze Tournament; elsewhere we seem to have “lost” a number of old friends and members but we have been fortunate in that we have attracted some new members which has been reflected in the makeup of our teams in the County Winter Leagues. Court usage has been remarkably steady at an average number of 587 light meter transactions per month over the year despite the difference between the numbers of players in the Internal Leagues and those playing socially and infrequently. Clearly, we would like to see greater participation in our internal leagues and in County league Squash and Racketball. The “Activity Space” continues to be an asset for a wide variety of uses in addition to the CF Tournament and hosts a variety of Fitness related activities on four evenings of the week.*

*The Club has maintained its support for the County Initiative to introduce Squash to Primary Schools, provide additional coaching for the junior girls and by holding sessions organised by Ben Schur, assisted by Lee Picken on behalf of Shropshire County Council as part of the Club’s commitment to growing junior squash.*

*On behalf of the Club I wish to thank Cyril, Lee, Alex Nolan and Courtney Downing for their unstinting help, commitment and enthusiasm in providing additional afternoon coaching and development for promising and improving youngsters; we are delighted to see some of those youngsters entering the Internal Leagues. With an ageing membership the Club future depends upon our ability to encourage as many youngsters as possible; Gary, Patrick and Andy need our help in finding more volunteers.*

*There are, of course, other members to thank; in many ways it’s a dichotomy of extremes; there have been incredible examples of “volunteering” across the board although I remain exasperated by the contrast between those who “put in” and those who “take out”.*

*I cannot mention everyone but first of all thanks go particularly to Lee Picken who has been superb as Club Captain; he has taken over many of the tasks done by lots of other people, including myself.*

*The reduced and smaller number of Officers and Committee members, particularly Treasurer Laura Mather, Membership Secretary Lorna Rogers, Cyril and Gary Nolan, Pete Morgans and the Team Captains, as well as Committee Members, have all kept the Club functioning and in a relatively good shape to go forward into the next Season.*

*Thanks to the stewardship of Laura, our Treasurer, the Club Accounts, whilst under strong pressure, have maintained a reserve and have remained relatively strong despite large increases in energy and housekeeping costs.*

*This reserve has been essential in enabling the Club to deal with all the changes in energy costs and has so far protected members from increased membership and court fees.*

*Laura will report on progress and any recommendations resulting from the “in depth review” recently carried out.*

*The Club is extremely grateful to Iain Painter who has once again unselfishly agreed to audit the Club Accounts.*

*The Club has invested heavily by maintaining and improving facilities for members from the redecoration carried out by the Bailey/Jones combo to nearly all of the “off court areas”, sanding and remarking Court Floors, replacement showers and the installation of a large screen television. Please bear in mind that the Club Accounts cover the year September 2022 to August 2023; therefore some significant expenditure on ”facilities” will not show in the accounts until the next AGM.*

***TREASURER’S REPORT***

*Laura tabled a written report highlighting income& expenditure under various headings and advised everyone that they covered the financial year ending in August 2023. A copy is attached to these minutes.*

*She was very pleased to report operating surplus of £9,600 [£2,080 after depreciation].On that basis Laura thought that the Annual Subscription and Light Meter fees could remain at current levels unless Energy Costs increased significantly*

*Agreed Unanimously*

***MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY’S REPORT***

*Lorna reported that the number of members at August 2023 was 216 [up from 2022 level of 196] [Current level at June 2024 – 209 in all membership categories].*

*Lorna reminded the meeting that the Club had collected England Squash affiliation fees in September 2023 but that ES had delayed the introduction of the direct membership scheme until the middle of 2024. ES will contact members directly and Lorna will advise members accordingly in respect of the ES categories when issued*

***CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT.***

*Unfortunately, Lee Picken was unable to attend the meeting at the last minute.*

*Lee has provided a report to be added to these minutes. Lee has indicated that he was willing to continue as Club Captain.*

*The Club has entered 5 teams in the Summer Leagues held at the Schools starting on 11 June; we have 6 teams in the RB summer leagues on alternate Mondays held at our Club starting on 10th June.*

*We have also entered a team to defend our winning the Central Staffs summer league, stat date awaited.*

*Volunteer players will be needed to play a friendly at Lilleshall against a Welsh team on 15/16th June.*

*The O45’s Masters lost against a strong Wiltshire team and we actually reached the finals of the non-county men’s squash but unfortunately were unable to field a team at that time.*

*Damian & Linda are organising a Ladies 6 weeks of Summer squash at differing venues starting on 6th June at the Schools.*

***COMPETITION ORGANISER’S REPORT***

*Pete Morgans reported on the progress of the Club championships which were on target for finals night on 22nd June. Pete asked to be advised on the number and type of Competitions required. To be advised, however, it was agreed that the Club would host the County Championships in September; it was suggested that less than 25% of the members were playing in any form of team squash or Racketball which was inhibiting the ability to spread the load for competition entrants.*

***1st TEAM CAPTAIN'S REPORT.***

*Alex reported by email that the team had had a decent season although plagued by injuries and the ‘fragmented’ schedule; he was pleased with the team’s efforts and that of newbie Alex Gwyther. He was hopeful that the new season would solve the problem of ‘free’ weeks by playing more matches than the traditional ‘home and away’ once format.*

***JUNIOR SECTION REPORT.***

*Gary gave an enthusiastic, unscripted report on Junior numbers in the mid-week and Saturday sessions and was very pleased that several juniors were now playing in the internal leagues. A few Juniors had helped by attending the “Squash Wall” event at the Salop Leisure site helping Gary, Ben Schur and Lee to bring Squash to the general public.*

*Gary was of the opinion that perhaps 6 Juniors showed sufficient promise to be supported for costs for additional coaching to be supported by the Chris Flint Fund.*

***ELECTION OF CLUB CAPTAIN.***

*Our volunteer for this position is Lee Picken*

***ELECTION OF 1st TEAM CAPTAIN.***

*Alex Whitehouse's volunteering was approved.*

***ELECTION OF TREASURER***

*Laura Mather’s volunteering was approved.*

***ELECTION OF MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY***

*Lorna Rogers volunteering was approved.*

***COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE*** *Don Wallington reminded the Club that the County would like to “balance” the Divisions next season; however, the promotion of our “D” team to Division One has made it a little more difficult because it is thought that we do not have the strength in depth to sustain an acceptable level of performance in that division.*

***ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.***

*Nomination forms had been issued well in advance of the meeting and the following people either had their arm twisted or selflessly volunteered for the following positions.*

*Four additional posts were added to assist or share the workload of the following posts:-*

*Assistant Club Captain; Assistant Competitions Organiser; Racketball Representative and What’s App co-ordinator. The latter being very important to “review” the number, relevance and acceptable content of the seemingly unstoppable growth in the use of the What’s App platforms; such a “review” should give guidance on what is and what is NOT acceptable on those sites.*

*Chairman Graham Jackson*

*Secretary Vacant*

*Honorary Treasurer Laura Mather*

*Membership Secretary Lorna Rogers.*

*Club Captain Lee Picken*

*Assistant Club Captain Vacant Vice Chairman Ian Dinwiddy*

*1st Team Captain Alex Whitehouse*

*Safeguarding Officer Gary Nolan*

*Internal League Organiser Cyril Nolan*

*Head Coach Courtney Downing*

*County Representative Don Wallington*

*Competitions Organiser Pete Morgans*

*Assistant Competitions Organiser Alex Whitehouse Racketball Representative Vacant Junior Organiser/Coach Gary Nolan*

*Ladies Development Damian Jay/Linda Pritchard*

*Fitness & Training Officer Vacant*

*First Aid Officer/Advisor Vacant Maintenance Officer/Advisor Chris Heath*

*Website Editor Kacper Pagorek/Alex Nolan/GSJ*

*Bookings Officer Vacant Honorary Auditor Iain Painter*

*Sponsorship Co-ordinator Vacant*

*Chris Flint Fund – Steering Ctte Annette Dickinson-Flint*

*Laura Mather*

*Mal Brown*

*Lee Picken*

*Committee Members [w/out portfolio] Vacant*

*Malcolm Brown*

*Vacant*

*Howard Jones*

*Max Lloyd*

*Guy Scott [Corresponding]*

*The Chairman is to attempt to find people to take some of the vacant posts.*

***ANY OTHER BUSINESS***

*None notified prior to the AGM.*

*The meeting concluded at 2015 hours with biscuits provided by the Membership Secretary*